

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 031100Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7159

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF JCCIA, JANUARY 3, 1974

REF; VIENTIANE 8738

1. RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS, HEADED BY CHAIRMEN, HELD PLENARY SESSION TODAY TO DISCUSS RESPONSIBILITIES AND PREROGATIVES OF JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) UNDER ARTICLE TEN OF LAO PROTOCOL, DEFINING NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. BEFORE DISCUSSING MAIN TOPIC, DELEGATIONS HAD BRIEF ARGUMENT WHEN LPF PROTESTED ALLEGED RLG CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION IN AREA OF XIENG NGEUN, SOME 15 KMS SOUTH OF LUANG PRABANG TOWN. NO DECISION WAS REACHED ON ONUS FOR THIS INCIDENT.

2. BOTH DELEGATIONS THEN PRESENTED DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR OPERATIONS OF JPF IN NEUTRALIZATION OF THE TWIN CAPITALS. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS LASTED ALMOST THREE HOURS, INTERRUPTED BY BREAK FOR COCKTAILS AND GENIAL CHIT-CHAT AT 1130. AFTERWARDS, RLG DELEGATION SPOKESMAN LANE SAID GENERAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON NEED FOR

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HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICE SPACE FOR JPF AND EACH SIDE'S

CONTINGENTS ON IT, ON CHECK-POINTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TWIN CAPITALS, PLACEMENT AND ARMAMENT OF JPF, INCLUDING SMALL ARMS, HAND GRENADES AND TEAR GAS.

3. MEETING THEN DISCUSSED GIVING JPF JURISDICTION OVER GENERAL SECURITY, TRAFFIC CONTROL, PROTECTION OF MINISTERS, SPECIAL "RIOT SQUADS" (POLICE D'INTERVENTION), AIRPORT AND RIVER IMMIGRATION SURVEILLANCE, AND FIRE PROTECTION.

4. LPF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN PHAO DID NOT FULLY CONCUR WITH LANE'S STATEMENT THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THESE POINTS. HE SAID THAT RLG SIDE HAD OBJECTED TO BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES OF JPF OUTLINED ABOVE, WHICH ARE APPARENTLY DRAWN FROM LPF DRAFT PROPOSAL. PHAO SAID RLG DELEGATION INDICATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH PRIME MINISTER TO DETERMINE HIS VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE JPF FUNCTIONS. IF PRIME MINISTER APPROVES BROAD JPF JURISDICTION AS INDICATED ABOVE, PHAO SPECULATED THAT DELEGATIONS COULD SIGN DOCUMENT ON SUBJECT OF "RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF JPF" AT NEXT WEEK'S PLENARY SESSION.

5. COMMENT: COMPROMISE RATIFIED AT LAST WEEK'S PLENARY SESSION TO INCLUDE BOTH CEASE-FIRE IMPLEMENTATION AND NEUTRALIZATION OF TWIN CAPITALS AS DISCUSSION TOPICS WAS OBVIOUSLY IN FORCE THIS WEEK, SINCE BOTH TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED. ATMOSPHERE REMAINS GOOD; DURING COCKTAIL BREAK BOTH SIDES MIXED FREELY WITH NEWSMEN AND OTHERS AT CONFERENCE HALL. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL APPROVE BROAD JURISDICTION FOR JPF, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF ITS FUNCTIONS PROPOSED BY LPF MAY NOT BE WELCOME TO MILITARY MEN ASSOCIATED WITH SANANIKONE AND SOUVANNAVONG FACTIONS WHO DOMINATE BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN VIENTIANE. WHITEHOUSE

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